

Hearing puts forth evidence in case for shooting of student

Omaha police officers take the stand

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

Officers who responded to the scene when 21-year-old UNO student Brittany Williams was fatally shot in January took the stand during a recent hearing. The hearing addressed what evidence would be allowed as the trial progresses.

Kyle Bormann, 20, is charged with first-degree murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony. Investigators said Bormann fired the fatal shot while Williams was in her car in the drive-through lane of a Kentucky Fried Chicken/Long John Silvers located at 7601 N. 30th St.



KYLE BORMANN

Williams was a pre-nursing student and Goodrich Scholar at UNO. She had been planning on attending UNMC's nursing program.

Five officers and a homicide detective gave testimony on July 7 regarding Bormann's arrest and statements made by him to officers.

If allowed, statements made by Bormann - both while he sat in the back seat of a police cruiser and also while being interviewed by detective Doug Herout - could be a racially aggravating factor. Such a factor might put the death penalty on the table if Bormann is convicted.

Written arguments on the suppression of evidence by the defense and prosecution were expected to be submitted to Judge Gerald Moran by today, and a decision is expected soon.

Bormann was first seen driving through the crime scene at Williams' shooting on Jan. 20. After a short pursuit, he was secured after his car became stuck in the snow. A hunting rifle with a scope attached and a spent shell casing were found.

Officers said that Bormann appeared drunk as he was taken into custody, and that he said he had been drinking earlier that night. His blood alcohol content was not tested.

As Bormann sat in the back seat of a police cruiser, he asked Officer Russell Petersen if he could talk. Petersen told Bormann that he wasn't being questioned, but if he wanted to talk he could.

"He asked if he can tell me about what's happening, I told him to sit back and relax," Petersen said.

Bormann persisted, telling Petersen and Officer Oscar Dieguez that he had been watching an NFL football game and had become upset due to several officiating calls.

"He said he was upset due to the bad officiating, because of the blacks," Petersen said at the hearing.

Dieguez was standing outside the cruiser's driver side window when he said that Bormann told the officers that he was getting more upset as he was drinking, grabbed his deer rifle and drove around.

Dieguez said Bormann ended by saying "I didn't shoot anyone," before sitting back and falling silent.

Bormann's trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 15.



'The Dark Knight' storms theaters

Gotham City's Caped Crusader returns to the silver screen, stunning filmgoers and fans.

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Colleges prep for GI Bill changes

More veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be eligible under changes to the GI Bill.

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Finding a second home in D.C.

Columnist Cassy Loseke shares her reflections on making the District her home away from home.

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Beertopia's Sunfest offers variety

To the 500 participants, this month's Sunfest beer tasting offered a chance to try over 140 different brews.

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Athletics hires new associate director

Four other lost positions from '06 budget controversy will not be refilled

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After an interim appointment that lasted two years, the athletics department named a permanent associate athletic director and senior woman administrator last week.

Michele Roberts, who has served as director of basketball operations at Iowa State University, will begin her duties as the No. 3 administrator for Maverick Athletics on Aug. 1.

"Michele impressed us during the interview process with her knowledge, understanding of the position, and desire for the job," Athletic Director David Miller said in a statement. "I'm looking forward to working with Michele and know she will be an outstanding addition to our staff. Her background, experiences, and ideas will serve us well."

As associate athletic director and senior woman's administrator, Roberts will represent the department at various conference and NCAA meetings, coordinate the UNO Diet Pepsi Women's Walk, market intercollegiate athletic programs and have sport administrative responsibilities, according to a statement by the department.

A 1994 graduate of UNK, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education, Roberts was the head girls' basketball coach at Central High School in Omaha from 1998 to 2003. She then took her current position at ISU, where she also earned her



MICHELE ROBERTS

master's degree in education in 2005.

Roberts will replace Rose Shires, UNO's head volleyball coach, who has served an interim appointment since July 2006. Shires took the position after revenue shortfalls caused the university to terminate Debra Denbeck and four other athletic department employees on June 20, 2006.

Investigation into the \$440,000 shortfall revealed that the department had been running a \$1 million deficit for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years. The controversy went on to claim the jobs of Vice Chancellor for Administration Jim Buck, who misused athletics department funds to pay for personal travel and other perks; Chancellor Nancy Belck, who provided altered expense reports to the Omaha World-Herald; and Athletic Director David Herbst, who stepped down citing a diminished ability to lead.

The four other positions claimed by the scandal - those of Michael Kros, assistant sports information director; Sue Larson, clerical assistant for athletics; Mitch Mosser, assistant coach of men's basketball; and Brad Schick, assistant coach of women's basketball - will not be rehired, said Sports Information Director Gary Anderson.

Anderson, however, will be retiring at the end of August. A committee has been formed to hire his replacement, said Director of University Relations Tim Kaldahl, who is serving on the committee.

Omaha police partner with crime report Web site

JUDY RYDBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

The Omaha Police Department recently joined a Web site enabling citizens to map crime reports in specific neighborhoods and make informed choices on how to protect themselves.

CrimeReports.com provides users a graphical representation of crime in the Omaha area. Users can choose the reports displayed from various crime types such as robbery, homicide, vehicle burglary, sexual offenses and assaults. The incidents are mapped out on a Google map of the area.

Free neighborhood crime reports are available via e-mail daily, weekly or monthly. City-wide analysis of the crimes reported to the Web site are also available to users.

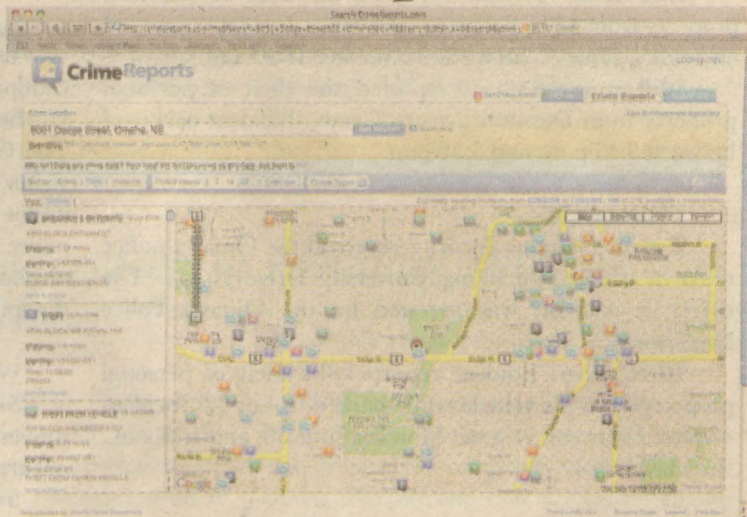
"It gives people a chance to take more ownership of their neighborhood and see what kind of crime is a problem, so maybe they can help with the solution," said Officer Bill Dropinski with the Public Information Office. "If you have more information, usually it helps in any situation you're in."

However, he also said easier access to community crime statistics could have downsides.

"In areas that have a lot of crime, people might not be apt to purchase homes there," Dropinski said. "People are going to put more stereotypes on certain neighborhoods. Unfortunately, there are always negatives to everything you try to do."

For the most part, he said, the Web site will help Omaha residents and law enforcement take control of crime in a new way.

"Citizens help us solve so many crimes. Many times, we need the citizens to do our work," Dropinski



said. "We can give them information to help us."

It has been more than a week since the department announced its association with Crime Reports. In that time, more than 15,000 people have visited the site, Dropinski said.

Paul Kosel, assistant manager of UNO Campus Security, said the Web site would help him do his job.

"It allows us to look online to find out if there are any significant crime patterns evolving around us," Kosel said. "We keep in contact with the precincts anyway, but it gives us another way of monitoring that information."

He said information currently on the site would help promote a reassuring atmosphere on campus.

"Last time I looked, there's not a whole lot of crime committed at UNO," Kosel said. "If that's consistent, it would probably make people feel safer around campus."

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Student falls from building, sustains head injury

JILLIAN WHITNEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A Creighton University student looking for a better view of the Omaha skyline ended up in the hospital with a critical head injury.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE BISHOP

Eighteen-year-old Curtis Jordan fell from the roof of Creighton's old gym earlier this month, injuring his head in the accident.

Curtis Jordan, 18, was injured after falling from the campus' old gym roof on July 13.

He was taken to Creighton University Medical Center and admitted in critical condition with a severe head injury. His condition was stable the next day.

Jordan was with two other Creighton students when they decided to climb onto the roof.

"Three students went up on the roof, one of the students wanted to show Curtis and the others a spot he liked to go to just look at the skyline, and the stars and to think about life," said Cindy Workman, spokesperson for the university.

Descending from one roof to another, Jordan lost his footing on a fire escape ladder and fell seven to 10 feet. Workman said no drugs or alcohol were involved in the incident.

Rescue crews responded to the emergency call around 12:30 a.m. Sunday. The other two students were not injured.

The students gained access to the roof through an outside fire escape and a key was not needed to enter. Workman said Creighton University was not currently taking any action.

"At this time, I am not aware of any action being taken, but the situation is being looked at," Workman said.

This fall, Jordan will be returning to Creighton as a sophomore, but he is not currently enrolled in classes.

Wheelchair games to roll into Omaha

MARK PATEL
CONTRIBUTOR

Those interested in seeing world-class athletes this summer won't have to travel halfway across the globe to Beijing.

Instead, all it will take is a trip to UNO's Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building Pool. The event, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, will be held in Omaha starting this week.

Track and field events, quad rugby, swimming, basketball and motorized wheelchair races will be among the contests that make up the largest wheelchair sports competition in the world.

Starting Friday and continuing until next Tuesday, events will take place at several Omaha facilities: UNO, Henry Doorly Zoo, Qwest Center, Mockingbird Lanes, Thunderbowl Lanes and Northwest High School.

More than 500 athletes from the United States and the United Kingdom will be participating in the games.

"We've got athletes from the greatest generation of World War II to the latest greatest generation of today," said Will Ackermam, public affairs officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The swimming events will be held at UNO on July 28 at 6:30 pm in the HPER Building.

"These brave men and women sacrificed for their country," Ackerman said. "This is a great way for us to give back to them by coming out, rooting them on and just showing the support that's so important to America's veterans."

The games provide an opportunity for rehabilitation of disabled veterans. For many participating, it is their first time competing in an organized wheelchair sports event.

Craig Enenbach, a UNO alumnus and wheelchair athlete, said participation in the games was important to him and his fellow soldiers.

"The camaraderie, the inspiration and what it did for me physically and personally," Enenbach said, "I said, 'This is a neat thing to do,' and then I kept going year after year."

There is still a need for volunteers on Thursday, when the athletes arrive, as well as on next Wednesday, the day the athletes depart.

"We really appreciate the fact that the Omaha community has really stepped up to the plate, both in volunteerism and corporate support and helping out in general to make this a world class event," Ackerman said.

Those interested in participating should contact Mikaela Knipe at mknipe@mail.unomaha.edu.

More information on the games can be found online at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov.

Crime Log

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Tuesday, July 1

8:28 a.m. Student reported the theft of personal property from Milo Bail Student Center. Incident occurred on Friday, June 27, between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

3:50 p.m. Student reported the theft of personal property from Durham Science Center. Incident occurred between 3:45 p.m. and 3:50 p.m.

Thursday, July 3

2 a.m. Campus Security observed the Omaha police make a traffic stop along University Drive North. The driver, a student, was arrested by the Omaha Police Department.

10:52 p.m. Student reported the theft of personal property from his vehicle while parked in Lot 12. Incident occurred between 11 p.m., Monday, June 30, and 1:15 a.m., Tuesday, July 1.

Friday, July 4

11:30 p.m. While on patrol of University Village, Campus Security observed individuals with alcohol. The alcohol was confiscated. The suspects were 21-years-old and not affiliated with the university.

Saturday, July 5

12:50 a.m. While on patrol of University Village, Campus Security observed an alcohol violation. The alcohol was confiscated, and the students were referred for disciplinary action.

Sunday, July 6

1:15 a.m. While on patrol of University Village, Campus Security found a bag of fireworks on a porch. Further investigation discovered alcohol and drug violations. The Omaha Police were notified. Two students and one visitor were cited for minor in possession of alcohol. One visitor was cited for possession of marijuana less than one ounce and was banned and barred from campus. The alcohol was disposed of, and the students were referred for disciplinary action.

Wednesday, July 9

5:45 a.m. A staff member reported the theft of university property from Criss Library. The incident occurred before 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

5:45 a.m. A staff member reported the theft of university property from Strauss Performing Arts Center. The incident occurred before 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

Thursday, July 10

12:18 p.m. A staff member reported the theft of university property from Criss Library. The incident occurred around noon.

We know you are a customer of this bank. We know you want to make a withdrawal. However, we are in a downspell. Do not look around. Do not attract attention. Fork over every bill in your wallet, then turn and quietly walk away if you value your life.



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Washington actions could impact college students

Congress looks to take mystery out of college costs, but critics only see more paperwork

BY AMANDA ERICKSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Thirteen thousand dollars.

That's the average cost of a year of college for in-state students. Make it more than \$32,000 for those attending private schools.

But, thanks to complicated financial aid formulas, what undergraduates really pay for their degree is a much more complex equation. Now Congress is trying to take the mystery out of the forever-rising costs of higher education by mandating that colleges provide students and their parents more information about how much the average student pays for school, what kind of tuition help they might be able to secure and which universities offer the best bang for the buck. Congress is also calling for an annual "blacklist" of schools with the steepest cost increases.

Critics wonder whether the measures will provide real financial relief or just create extra paperwork for colleges.

"A list that has the impression of a good guys list ... can make a modest difference," said Robert Shireman, president of the Institute for College Access and Success, an organization that researches ways to make college more attainable for students.

But, he added, it probably would not by itself greatly reduce the financial burden many university graduates face.

The measure is now in conference committee as lawmakers seek to iron out the differences between House and Senate bills. If approved, it would create an online database with information on how much colleges cost and what an average student would end up paying after financial aid is doled out. The Web site would also provide data on schools' graduation rates and faculty and student demographics, as much as numerous college guidebooks already do.

The federal report would also highlight the schools whose costs have gone up the least and most. Universities with the biggest increases would be required to explain to Congress how they would cut future costs.

The form the government uses to calculate financial aid would be reduced from seven pages to two, a move that will save time for students and parents. The bill also proposes a pilot program that would provide students a college aid estimate during their junior year of high school, rather than having to wait until their senior year. That would give families an earlier prediction of how much assistance they might receive.

This legislation comes on the heels of other federal efforts to reduce the cost of loans. In 2007, Congress passed a law that will cut the interest rate on federal student loans in half over the next four years. Students who have worked in public service for at least 10 years after graduation may also have the rest of their debt forgiven.

In May, the Department of Education purchased some college loans after private lenders said they would not be able to make loans to other students because of the credit crunch.

The average cost of a public four-year school for the 2007-08 academic year was \$13,589 for an in-state student. The private college cost averaged \$32,307 this past school year, up 6 percent from the year before, according to the College Board, which administers the SAT test used by many colleges to help gauge the quality of applicants.

Some college officials applauded the new federal effort aimed at disclosing more college cost information.

"The bill has a strong emphasis on transparency of costs," said Scott Sudduth, assistant vice president of federal relations at the University of Chicago. "We think that it's going to help make a more informed consumer."

But other college officials worry that the new reporting requirements will raise costs, not lower them.

Sarah Flanagan, vice president for government relations at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, said colleges have been hard hit by the rising costs of fuel, technology and labor, and that Congress should address those problems rather than adding additional reporting requirements that would require staff to crunch numbers, resulting in a cost that has to be passed on to students.

"What is government's role?" she asked. "To add to or alleviate costs?"

She and others noted that Internet sites already offer tables on how much different colleges might cost students at different family income levels.

Melissa Wagoner, spokeswoman for Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said Congress tried to minimize any added burden by ensuring that most of the additional requirements make use of data that colleges already provide the Education Department. She said only two of the 26 information provisions are new.

She said the new site would be more comprehensive, with more data and detailed demographic information.

Schools prepare for more Iraq, Afghanistan vets to study under new GI Bill next year

BY LISA M. KRIEGER
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif. (MCT) — Schools are preparing for an influx of student soldiers after lawmakers overhauled the GI Bill, making higher education essentially free to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The new benefit pays for four years at a soldier's in-state college, and it includes housing and other education benefits.

California campuses are launching programs to ease the move from combat to college, offering aid ranging from sympathetic ears to early course placement.

"There's been a fundamental shift. Now, education can be your full-time job," said Patrick Campbell, a UC Berkeley graduate who was a medic in Iraq and now works for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, based in Washington, D.C.

The legislation, signed into law June 30, was the biggest overhaul since the 1944 GI Bill turned college education into a right. The benefits, however, failed to keep pace with soaring tuitions.

"Until now, the money paid by the GI Bill barely paid for community college. Now, you can go to any California State University or University of California campus for free," said Campbell, who borrowed about \$100,000 to attend law school. "Thousands of vets can go to the best school — not just the cheapest school."

The new provisions go into effect in August 2009.

"I am ecstatic. It will make college so much more easy, and appealing, for vets," said Joshua Karrasch, 27, a pre-med student at UC Santa Cruz who was a medic with the Expeditionary Medical Force in Kuwait.

To pay for school, Karrasch took a job with an ambulance company. He cashed out his military retirement plan, bought a 1972 camper trailer and moved to a trailer park.

Washington postures as economy sours, oil rises

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON (MCT) — During a week of economic turmoil and wildly fluctuating energy prices, Washington lawmakers did little to calm consumers, opting instead to spend a lot of time trying to land political punches.

Republicans kept talking about the importance of allowing drilling off U.S. coastlines. Democrats countered with how releasing some oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve might help drive down oil prices.

The Democratic-led House of Representatives voted largely on party lines in a 244-173 decision to require oil companies to drill on federally leased land they already control or lose their rights. The bill, which also would speed up leasing in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve, fell far short of the two-thirds needed for passage; President Bush had threatened a veto anyway.

There were small hints of possible legislative breakthroughs, though. Ten senators joined a bipartisan effort to break the energy deadlock. Legislation to provide more regulation of energy futures trading was proceeding.

But most of the lawmakers' time was spent claiming that opponents were stubborn and misreading the American public. Or as Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., put it, "This is all about political games, not about solving our country's problems."

Data show vividly that the public agrees. A Quinnipiac University poll taken July 8-13 found that a scant 14 percent of likely voters approved of the way Congress is handling its job. That percentage is below the

Colleges are also offering veterans preferential help — saying they deserve a reward for their sacrifices. Admission officers promise to look at their applications not once, but twice. Like athletes and handicapped students, veterans will have priority when picking classes. Mentoring and counseling services are available.

The new law will swell the four-year ranks, Campbell predicted. He calculated that it would bring about \$432 million in educational benefits to the state.

"The number of veterans at UC Berkeley increased this year, and we're likely to see that number grow," said Ron Williams, campus coordinator of Re-entry Student and Veterans Programs and Services.

About 150 Berkeley students have identified themselves as veterans and are majoring in subjects ranging among engineering and languages to philosophy and peace and conflict studies.

While campuses may be centers of dissent, veterans say fellow students criticize policymakers, not soldiers.

"A lot of people at UCSC dislike the military, but I feel very welcomed. I have never been asked inappropriate questions," Karrasch said.

The schools say that veterans enrich campus life. They are more focused and bring a wealth of real-world experience to classroom discussions, educators say.

Most importantly, they help educate civilians about the military — at a time when few young people, especially the educated elite, interact with former soldiers.

"Veterans bring leadership, maturity and life skills that make for highly successful students," UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau said in a letter to Congress earlier this year urging support for expanded benefits.

26 percent who approved of President Bush's performance.

The disdain of Congress had a bipartisan tinge. The approval rating among Democrats was 19 percent, compared with 15 percent among Republicans and 8 percent among independents.

Polls also suggest that the public is willing to embrace a number of solutions to the energy and economic crunch.

"The public doesn't know that much about the respective energy plans," said Carroll Doherty, Pew Research Center associate director. "They want something done."

In a Fox News/Opinion Dynamics survey conducted last month, three-fourths of those surveyed said they backed "increased drilling for oil in the U.S. immediately," while about half urged building new nuclear-power plants.

Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, and John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, have a long list of remedies, and experts think that having a long menu of options is good politics and good policy.

"I'd rather have both candidates not get committed to a lot of specifics," said Philip Sharp, the president of Resources for the Future, a nonpartisan research group, "so they can have room to govern when they get to the White House. I want to know broadly where they are."

Robert Kaufmann, the director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Boston University, put it this way. "Voters will probably want to pick some from column A and some from column B," he said.

See **APPROVAL**: Page 8

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In Douglas County, STD rates are highest
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Now Playing: The Gateway's take on summer cinema

'Knight' gives comic book films a bright future

REVIEW BY
CHARLEY REED
CONTRIBUTOR

Unless you've been living under a rock, I'm probably not telling you anything you don't know when I say that the hype around "The Dark Knight" is no fluke. It really is as good as everyone says; perhaps even better.

Even if I said it was the best film of 2008, which it is, that would still be selling the film short. Because, despite recent successes like "Iron Man" and "The Incredible Hulk," no film has come close to perfectly capturing a graphic novel or comic book's essence like "Knight."

Unlike the goofy and sometimes outlandish entries into the superhero film canon in recent years, Christopher Nolan's take on the Batman mythos goes the extra step and takes the world of comic book fantasy and puts it on par with the great crime-dramas of the last quarter century. "The Dark Knight" will, and should, be remembered in the same breath as "Se7en," "Goodfellas," "The Departed" and "The Usual Suspects."

This film is more about Gotham City than it is any one character. Throughout the film, from the opening bank heist to the roll of the credits, the Joker uses everything, and anyone, to fight to pull Gotham City into chaos. Batman, meanwhile, not only has to save the city but keep himself from being pulled down with it.

And while Nolan, and his script-writing brother Jonathan Nolan, deserves a lot of praise for achieving this benchmark in cinematic history, this film is nothing without its outstanding ensemble cast.

Everyone is great but Heath Ledger as the Joker and Aaron Eckhart as Harvey "Two Face" Dent are the standouts

here. Both play their characters so well that they become absorbed. Ledger's performance as the Joker is nothing short of epic and Eckhart's is a career-defining role for the otherwise indie-scene actor. It just happens to be overshadowed by one of the greatest character performances in cinematic history.

The other truly remarkable aspect of the film is its score. Organized by Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer and Oscar-nominated composer James Newton Howard, the music truly makes the movie.

Compartmentalized to highlight the three key characters — Batman, Joker and Harvey Dent — each individual score adds either tension in the case of the Joker, aggression in the case of Batman or patriotism in the case of Dent. Combined into one set it stands as one of the best film scores ever recorded.

However, in the end, it's the film's message and the issues that it explores that truly make an impression. In any other comic book film you can leave your brain at the door, but not here. Just like the comic that gave the film its namesake, "The Dark Knight" mirrors society's problems, fears and hopes in an attempt to enlighten. Never preachy, but constantly thought-provoking, "Knight" stands head-and-shoulders above its predecessors for this fact alone.

While there's so much more than could be said about the film there's just not enough space to express how truly impressed and overjoyed I am that finally there is a superhero movie that can be both fantastically awe-inspiring and bitterly inward-looking. If you've already seen the film, then you understand what I'm talking about. If you haven't seen the film, what are you waiting for?

Hyperbole be damned, "The Dark Knight" is the best experience you will have in a movie theater this year.



'Mamma Mia!'

REVIEW BY
JUDY RYDBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

"My, my, how can I resist you?" sing Abba fans everywhere. "Mamma Mia!" the hit play based on songs from '70s pop band Abba, is hitting the big screen.

The PG-13 movie follows Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) as she invites her three potential fathers (Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgard) to her wedding. The day before the wedding, Sophie's fiercely independent mother (Meryl Streep) finds out what her daughter did. Drama ensues as they face the cliché question of "Who's your daddy?"

This flick certainly plays up each actor's talents. With a powerful voice, Seyfried shines in the lead role. Her talent may surprise audiences who remember her lackluster role as ditzzy Karen in "Mean Girls."

Streep brings more than just star power to her role. She brings dramatic acting, energetic dancing and a husky, yet sexy singing voice. Brosnan is by no means a decent vocalist, but he is quite skilled at showing off his bare chest every chance he can get.

The plot is intriguing and fun for the first half of the movie. Towards the end, however, the story line gets buried by a constant barrage of music. The last few scenes had just a few lines of dialogue between each song. Just waiting for it to end seemed tedious with these constant interruptions.

Most musicals are built around songs that are noticeably different from each other, but because "Mamma Mia!" is saturated with Abba, most of the songs sound the same. The only two standout tracks, the title song and "Dancing Queen," are repeated several times.

Unique camera angles and beautiful coastline scenery add to the movie's appeal. In contrast, the cheesy synchronized dance numbers don't add much to the film and are too over-the-top for even this avid musical fan.

Viewers who dislike musicals stand no chance at tolerating this one. People who love musicals could go either way with "Mamma Mia!"



'Journey to the Center of the Earth'

REVIEW BY
JUDY RYDBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

Taking a trip to the center of the Earth is more fun than one might assume.

Usually, a PG rating often means that it's not suited for those of us who want to see more adult content and drama. "Journey to the Center of the Earth," however, offers action and non-geeky sci-fi in a relatively new 3-D format.

A wacky scientist (Brendan Fraser) and his nephew (Josh Hutcherson) set out to find their lost relative whom they believe found a portal to the center of the earth. Armed with a hiking guide (Anita Briem) and a copy of the classic Jules Verne novel by the same name, they reach the Earth's core. It's paradise until they realize they must get out soon or they'll die.

The underworld scenery is creative, but it appears very fake at times. Man-eating fish, giant fungi and glow-in-the-dark birds appear more like amateur animation than actual beings. Nevertheless, the 3-D format is cool.

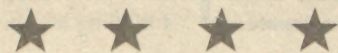
In a scene shown in many previews, the characters are racing down an abandoned mine track. The camera angles make viewers feel like they're actually speeding down the track, roller coaster style.

A few "oh brother!" moments detract from the film's allure. For example, Fraser is supposed to be this genius scientist, but he has never heard of Google. Another eye-rolling moment is when he gets into a fist fight with a giant predatory plant.

The acting quality was also lacking. When Fraser and Briem are supposedly fighting for their lives, they merely just go through the motions.

However, 15-year-old Hutcherson is a much better actor than his two adult co-stars. He cries in believable despair and shudders in realistic terror as monstrous creatures snap their razor sharp teeth at his small body.

In a nutshell, "Journey to the Center of the Earth" is worth a look. In spite of a few inadequacies, the film is surprisingly entertaining.



'Hellboy II'

REVIEW BY
CHARLEY REED
CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine if the X-Men were dropped into Gotham City and had to fight horrors straight out of a Jules Verne or H.P. Lovecraft novel. That's "Hellboy II: The Golden Army" in a nutshell.

Blurring the lines of action, horror, fantasy and romance seamlessly, director Guillermo del Toro (Pan's Labyrinth) brings the cult comic book hero back to the big screen. But, this time he's got a lot more to deal with.

In this installment, a centuries-old truce between the "gods" and the humans is broken. It's up to Hellboy (Ron Perlman) and a team of paranormal crime fighters to save the day. One of these team members is his girlfriend, a pyromancer named Liz (Selma Blair) who is having a hard time adjusting to dating a giant, red half-demon.

Typical "human" emotions ranging from love, isolation, duty, family and honor plague the outcast heroes in "Hellboy." While the first "Hellboy" was an uncomfortably slow origin story, the formalities are over. Thankfully, this time around, the focus is on the "freaks."

But more than just the freaks, del Toro creates a frighteningly beautiful alternate reality where gods and demons seem right at home in our otherwise "normal" world. In particular there's a scene near the end, involving the golden army the film's title references, which is flawlessly orchestrated.

But the rest of film just isn't as lucky.

Rather than being imposing, the villain, Prince Nuada (Luke Goss) might as well be a gymnast in an elf costume.

Rather than scary or menacing, Nuada merely comes off looking childish, incompetent and nonthreatening.

There is also a scene in the film involving the destruction of a deadly weapon that comes close to undermining the film's internal logic. It's enough to make even the most ardent fanboy squirm in their seat.

But, despite these blemishes, the film is still quite enjoyable. And, while the human world in the film may not accept him, for this reviewer, it's just too hard not to love "Hellboy."



Heath Ledger stars as The Joker in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' action drama "The Dark Knight." Ledger's brilliant performance overshadows the others, including indie actor Aaron Eckhart who played Harvey "Two Face" Dent.

STEPHEN VAUGHAN / MCT

Lagers and pilsners and bocks! Oh, my!

Good weather, good beer bring large crowd to Beertopia's Sunfest to sample various brews



PHOTO BY CHARLEY REED

Over 40 breweries including some as far away as Germany and Brazil were featured. Some representatives made the trek from Kansas City and Fort Collins, Colo., to serve their brews.

CHARLEY REED
CONTRIBUTOR

To paraphrase a famous limerick: beer, beer, everywhere, so let's all have a drink.

A warm, sunny day on July 12 marked the return of Beertopia's now-annual Sunfest. Bigger and better than last year, 500 eager patrons had five hours on a Saturday afternoon to sample over 140 different beers from 40 different distributors.

Located next to the Crescent Moon on 35th and Farnam streets, the event's main sponsor, Beertopia, originally held Sunfest to focus specifically on summer seasonal selections. The then-indoor event sold just over 150 tickets. The fact that this year's event sold out surprised Beertopia's management.

"The response was excellent ... but

nice weather and plenty of beer, I'm sure that was a pretty big draw for people," Brent Udron, Beertopia's manager said. "We were really happy with the turnout."

Located in the back parking lot of Crescent Moon, Sunfest kept all 500 ticket-holders happy, well-fed and hydrated. Aside from a large tent housing the 40-odd pouring stations, there were also a trio of large picnic tables and a concession stand selling everything from authentic German hotdogs to grilled cheese sandwiches.

Those who ventured into the tasting tent likely experienced a slight case of claustrophobia, but that didn't detract from the experience for those involved.

"It was a good time, we met a lot of good people, saw a lot of familiar faces and met some new people as well and

people seemed to like the beers," said Tyson Harp, head brewer of Papillion's Nebraska Brewing Company.

With a handy four-page guide, people could select samples from breweries from as close as Papillion or as far away as Brazil. If a patron found a particular beer they liked, a helpful pricing guide was also attached, showing just how much a 12 oz, pint or liter of their favorite brew was just down the street at Beertopia.

Bill Baubek, owner of the Crescent Moon, explained that while wine tastings are more accepted as high-class, beer tastings can be just as sophisticated.

"With so many different beers, beer styles and flavor profiles it appeals to such a huge, wide-range of audiences," Baubek said. "They can have their favorites and argue about which beer is better, worse or who liked this one better and why and all that. So it makes for great conversation ... it just kind of becomes a great social event for people to get together and come enjoy the day."

But events like Sunfest are just part of a larger plan to bring Omaha's beer culture up to snuff. In addition to festivals, Beertopia offers classes, free tastings for regular customers and opportunities to meet one-on-one with local brewmasters like Harp.

"Besides it being a lot of fun, we do it because ... the more we can introduce people to different kinds of beers, the better consumers they will be," Udron said. "They'll make better choices and that'll raise the overall quality of beer available in Nebraska."

If the success of Sunfest was any indication, Udron doesn't have to worry. He can also rest assured that the industry, at least locally, is also taking notice.

"I have a lot of respect for what they're doing," Harp said. "They're just a huge part of our beer culture."

Bringing Omaha into that larger beer culture is all that Udron and Baubek really want to see happen. For them, there is no reason for Omaha to be left behind as the popularity of specialty brewing increases around the country.

"If people are more accustomed to trying great beers they're going to look to find great beer," Udron explained. "That's good for us and good for all the breweries in Nebraska and all the other retail outlets. We're just trying to raise the bar."

Sunfest favorites

REVIEW BY
CHARLEY REED
CONTRIBUTOR

WARSTINER PREMIUM LEMON

From the Warstiner Brewing Company in Germany, this lighter, fruitier take on their famous German lager tastes like drinking a box of Lemonheads. Less alcohol and a smoother taste than a Mike's Hard Lemonade and with much better flavor.

EPHEMERE APPLE

From Canada's Unibroue Brewing Company, makers of some of the strongest beer on the market, comes a milder, but tangier, entry. While fruit-flavored beers may not be everyone's favorites, it's hard to find fault with this selection. Like drinking a caramel apple, this is the perfect Halloween beer.

WEIHENSTEPHANER KRISTALLWEISSBIER

While your typical wheat beers are overpowering and almost heavy with a sense of drinking cream of wheat, this is a crisper German beer with a finish that's easy on the taste buds. If you like Boulevard's Unfiltered Wheat, give this one a try; no lemon required to enjoy.

'BLOOD' RED BEER

From the Gottberg Brewery in Columbus, Neb., this Vienna-style lager is the perfect beer to drink as the dog days of summer start to turn over to fall. With a smoky body and a light but biting hoppy aftertaste, this is one is a great local selection.

KEY WEST RASPBERRY WHEAT

Unlike the apple or lemon-flavored beers, the raspberry flavor here isn't the star of the show. Blended fantastically with a full-bodied wheat flavor, the sharpness of the strong grain flavor is balanced out by soothing raspberry undertones. A perfect summer selection.

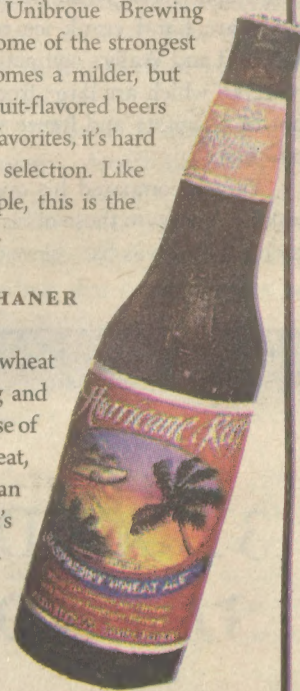


PHOTO BY CHARLEY REED



PHOTO BY CHARLEY REED

A capacity crowd of 500 people at Sunfest enjoyed five hours of outdoor beer sampling. With highs in the mid-80s and a sunny sky, it was the perfect day for sharing a variety of brews with friends and fellow beer lovers.

Beertopia's Sunfest included over 140 types of beer including Unibroue's Blanche de Chambly from Quebec, Canada.

Ted and Wally's ice cream known for its distinctive process

PATRICK FAVARA
CONTRIBUTOR

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Ted and Wally's ice cream, that is.

First established in Lincoln, Neb., in 1984, and then relocated to Omaha in 1986, Ted and Wally's Ice Cream Shop has always been known for its old-fashioned homemade ice cream.

Now at 1120 Jackson St., current owners, Joe Pittack and Jeanne Ohira, were both employees at Ted and Wally's before taking on ownership of the shop in January 2001.

"My sister Jeanne worked there for eight years and I worked there for two," Pittack said. "So when the owners decided to sell the place, we said, 'Why not? Let's buy it!'"

Since then, their business has been progressing.

"People come here because we have 15 years experience making homemade ice cream, the uniqueness of our flavors and we use an old process that new machines just cannot replicate," Pittack said.

That process is what makes their ice cream so distinctive. Ted and Wally's uses old-fashioned style White Mountain Freezers, which are hand crank ice makers, Pittack said. Ted and Wally's competitors use "batch freezers," which are large freezing chambers that mix, agitate and freeze whatever is put into them.

Pittack compared his overall ice cream making process to those of his competitors by saying that it was like "slow cooking a meal

versus microwaving it."

With over 350 flavors of ice cream to a vast variety of shakes, malts, sundaes and "mix-ins," soft serve ice cream mixed with a variety of sweet treats, it is not hard to find a flavor to come back to again and again.

And, for those who are into self-creations, Ted and Wally's also does custom flavors.

"If you can think it up, we can make it," Pittack said. "We think of new flavors all the time. My sister or I may have some desert at dinner one night and, the next day, we might try to make into a quality ice cream recipe the next day."

It's not just deserts that give the owners ideas for new flavors. Liquid refreshments also get mixed in.

"Ted and Wally's Guinness ice cream is the best ice cream in Omaha," said UNO junior David Burr.

Unfortunately, not all the ice cream inventions pan out.

"One flavor that did not go over so well was the jalapeno ice cream," Pittack said. "Actually, I liked it, but I may have been the only one in town who did."

Although the jalapeno ice cream did not take off, there are several other flavors that have, including several recent creations by Ohira. Among them are mango rum, molasses cookie and Tahiti sesame.

Of course, there are the perennial classics as well.

"Easily, the top four flavors are vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and cinnamon, with cake mix and cookie dough coming in a close



PHOTO BY MICHELLE BISHOP

UNO alumnus David Sater gets a bag of desserts from Ted and Wally's employee Robert Little.

fifth and sixth, respectively," said Pittack.

As for the prices, some UNO students think they are a little high but worth the extra money.

"It's expensive, but good though," said senior John Friend. "It's one of a kind."

Senior Jake Holst agrees with Friend.

"I think the ice cream is bomb, but it is a little high-priced," Holst said.

It's not all about selling cones for Ted and Wally's though. According to Pittack, they donate to Creighton, College of St. Mary's, church groups and youth groups for all kinds of benefits and fundraisers.

"I would like to see more UNO students and/or faculty ask the Ted and Wally's family to get involved with school organizations, clubs, fund-raisers or anything," said Pittack.

Open all year round, except on Christmas and New Year's Day, Ted and Wally's does the most business during the summer.

So, whether you are craving an old-fashioned waffle cone with chocolate and vanilla ice cream or you want to step out of the norm and try the avocado, honeydew melon, Nutella or Guinness flavored ice cream, Ted and Wally's Ice Cream Shop in downtown Omaha has it all and then some.

audiophile

'3 Doors Down' 3 Doors Down

REVIEW BY
CASSY LOSEKE
COPY & LINE EDITOR

After 3 Doors Down's emerged onto the alternative music scene in 2000 with their first album, "The Better Life," they continue to stay in the spotlight with hits such as "Kryptonite," "Loser," "Here Without You," "When I'm Gone" and "Let Me Go."

Their most recent self-titled release debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Chart and sold over 154,000 copies in the first week. And for good reason.

The new album starts with strong guitar riffs in "Train" as the band declares the need to be "put on a train momma, cause things just ain't the same no more." The lyrics from this song, the first on the record, foreshadow the distinction this album makes from the previous three.

With headstrong melody blasting the words "citizen/soldiers holding the light for the ones that we guide from the dark of despair" in the song "Citizen/Soldier," the band gives their respect for the troops' service overseas. The song was originally penned for the National Guard and has been used in commercials for the service branch since late 2007, before the album was even released.

Other songs such as "It's Not My Time" also continues the theme of independence and strength. In contrast, "Let Me Be Myself" is a simple plea for acceptance while "Pages" gives an intimate look in the mind of someone



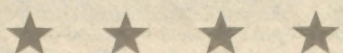
struggling to not fall apart.

"It's the Only One You've Got" slows down and deepens at the record's emotional core as the lead vocalist sings of taking chances and discovering inner strength to overcome psychological challenges: "If you're afraid to fight, then I guess you never will. You hide behind your walls of maybe, nevers. ... Your mistakes do not define you now — they tell you who you're not. You've got to live this life you're given like it's the only one you've got."

"Your Arms Feel Like Home" is another song that can be repeated 100 times with content. The comfortable acoustic melody matches the blissful slumber of the words, "There's a life inside me that I can feel again. ... It's the only thing that takes me where I never been. ... I don't care if I've lost everything I've known. ... It don't matter where I lay my head tonight — your arms feel like home."

Again, disparity of songs within the album is uncovered, as it ends with "She Don't Want the World," a bitter-sweet verse crooning of a one-sided relationship ("All the things she says, he's just lying there without someone to hear her cry") that ends when the imbalance is realized ("a brand new morning shines, in the morning she wakes up alone again, this time to face the day").

While the remaining four songs seem shallow in comparison to the depth of those aforementioned, they certainly have their purpose and carry this record to the success it has already achieved.



audiophile

'The Red Album' Weezer

REVIEW BY
CASSY LOSEKE
COPY & LINE EDITOR

Seven million albums, 16 years as a band, six full-length records, three EP albums: Weezer definitely has a lot to brag about, and songs from their latest release, "The Red Album," do just that.

The first song on the record, "Troublemaker" strikes an ironic, or at least cynical, pose. While lead vocalist Rivers Cuomo merely states that he is being unlike anyone other musician — don't they all say the same thing? — "The Greatest Man That Ever Lived (Variations on a Shaker Hymn)" is a slap in the face about his apparent unique qualities.

Cuomo sings "I'm the baddest of the bad, I'm the best that you've ever had." This song, the second on the album, combines nearly six minutes of piano notes, falsetto singing, rap, hymnal singing, speaking and other noise into a beautiful combination comparable to Green Day's "Jesus of Suburbia." The eclectic mix could've been easily imposed into a corny scene of a movie like "Evan Almighty" and fit perfectly.

The first single of the album, "Pork and Beans" continues the theme of superiority and personal freedom, while mocking current pop music ("I'm a do the things that I wanna do, I ain't got a thing



to prove to you"). Online reports say that the song was a result of meeting with a producer who told them that they needed to make a more "mainstream" sound.

"Everybody Get Dangerous" is dangerously catchy. Enough said.

Arguably the most light-hearted song on The Red Album, "Dreamin'" is the fluffy equivalent to bird soaring through marshmallow clouds in the sky ("There are bluebirds, in the meadows, and the bees are flying around.") Skipping is welcome.

As the songs play in order, from the beginning to end, it's as if the band members are needing to prove themselves less and less and finding peace in what they've discovered among themselves.

The final song, "The Angel and the One" is the deepest, yet fairly simple song in the compilation, stating, "I feel a deeper peace and that deeper peace is penetrating. I've got the magic in me, I am complete is what I'm saying."

The rest of the songs are as equally great and moving — despite that the album's emotional element that begins forcefully, it does have a soft touch as it ends delicately.

The variety of sound throughout all ten songs makes this album fun to listen to and will easily find its way to the top of any old or new Weezer fan's long-term playlist.



Obama attacks The New Yorker: Could it just be a political strategy? Just the facts: Taking another look at polar bears, oil greed and Americans

If you turned on TV news early last week, it would have been difficult for you not to hear about the now-infamous cover of July 21 issue of The New Yorker magazine.

Odds are good, too, that you heard pundits denounce the cover as tasteless, offensive and possibly racist. Even liberal commenter like Keith Olbermann of MSNBC jumped on the bandwagon.

Better TV news outlets, and most print outlets, noted that The New Yorker's official reply was that the cover was satire. Which, of course, it was, since not only does the magazine show a consistent contempt for right-wing politics, but also the illustrator, Barry Blitt, has done several political cartoon covers over the years.

Last week's cartoon shows presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama dressed as a Middle Easterner, fist-bumping his wife, who wears an assault rifle and military fatigues. The scene is in the Oval Office, where a portrait of Osama bin Laden hangs in the background above a fireplace where Old Glory burns.

Previous Blitt covers include former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad being approached in a men's room in the manner of Sen. Larry Craig (Oct. 8, 2007); Vice President Dick Cheney getting his blood pressure read according to the Department of Homeland Security's colored threat level scale (Aug. 30, 2004); and President Bush playing a maid to Cheney in "The Odd Couple" (Dec. 5, 2005).

Whether Blitt's cartoon is offensive is hardly worth considering. Yes, of course it is; it's meant to be. By being offensive, the cartoon shows how deplorable the right-wing smears on Obama are. It would be no different than if Blitt had depicted Obama as a slave, calling attention to the racism implicit in other smears against Obama's character.

What is worth attention is something few in the media are recognizing: Obama's campaign could have, and should have, thanked The New Yorker for ridiculing the same lies that have forced the campaign to establish fightthesmears.com.

So why didn't they? More importantly, why did Obama's rhetoric join those of the

pundits in implicitly calling for the censorship of The New Yorker by encouraging people not to purchase the magazine, to cancel their subscriptions and to otherwise smear the staff of the publication in the same way as their satirical depiction?

My guess is that Obama's camp didn't want people reading the absolutely exquisite cover story by Ryan Lizza printed about their candidate's formative first campaigns in the gritty world of Chicago politics. They might also have not appreciated Hendrik Hertzberg's commentary on Obama's flip-flopping, although he was mostly sympathetic to Obama.

Among other things, Lizza's feature story depicts Obama benefiting from the gerrymandering of Illinois in advance of his

See **STEWART**: Page 8

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

Simply Fabulous



Christina Clark

From the District: Nebraska 'where my heart is'

As I sit here in my Washington condo with my mother and sister trying to decide what sites they're going to visit tomorrow, I find myself distracted from writing and instead, trying to help them with their choices.

A pang of jealousy passes through me: I couldn't help but become envious of the prospective fun places they can go to while I'm stuck in front of a computer, at work.

I must admit, the idea of playing hooky is quite appealing. I really haven't explored Washington like I imagined I would've, much to my chagrin.

But I realize it's my fault—it's been all too easy adopting the District-native mentality which, honestly, isn't as much fun as being a tourist.

Instead of being able to strike up conversations with strangers, have an excuse for getting lost on the Metro and take pictures of buildings that probably don't have much meaning, but look important,

I must close my mouth, pretend I know where I'm going and tuck my camera in my purse in order to "fit in." My only consolation is feeling important when a tourist asks for directions and I am able to assist.

In an effort to combat the cycle of sitting indoors as time ticks closer to BIO Day (Back-In-Omaha Day), I went to another D.C. United game (yes, my eighth of the season) and afterwards visited the capitol building as it glowed like a beacon under the moon.

It was gorgeous. As I gazed into the

blinking red light on the peak of the monument, I became lost in feelings of content and love for a city some dislike, even despise.

I never thought I could enjoy something so different than my home state. To me, it's always been "Nebraska's where my heart is."

But this place has become my second home. I've, surprisingly, rarely become homesick, made new memories and friendships, stretched my mind further than academia

allows and acquired a list of favorite "Cassy spots." It'll be a bittersweet Aug. 10 day — BIO Day.

As I get older, I become more sentimental and emotional, even if for no apparent reason. It's easy for me to picture myself living here — maybe not for the rest of my life, but at least good portion of it. This place has captured my heart and I don't even know why, nor can it be adequately explained through words.

It's not something you understand; it's something you experience.

Even as I get choked up in these feelings, I feel a sense of urgency, reminding myself that I only have less than three weeks to savor this small town in a big city.

Of course summer is going by all too quickly, but the least I can do is live it up, take lots of pictures and grab a local apartment guide on my way out.

Because I'm coming back (and I'm going to need a place to live!)

Controlled Chaos



Cassy Loseke

I recently wrote a column concerning rising gas prices in America ("Polar bears, oil: American greed needs to be restrained by people," June 17). Due to the amount of feedback, both good and bad, I am writing a follow up to provide factual content to back up my piece.

In the "Polar bears" column, I offered my opinion on the nature of Americans and our energy policies. I made a lot of claims, not all of which I will address here. I will attempt to pick out what I consider the most important topics and provide facts for those.

First, I asserted that Americans want to drill in our natural reserves because they believe this will yield enough oil to lower gas prices.

A nationwide survey of more than 2,000 adults done by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press conducted June 18 to June 29 found that more than half supported drilling in ANWR, up from 42 percent in February. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a wilderness preserve of more than 19 million acres in Alaska.

Congressional satisfaction is at an all-time low, according to a recent national poll, with disapproval for Congress at 14 percent this July. Since Democrats currently control Congress, and Congress is responsible for not allowing drilling in ANWR, it follows that many people blame the Democrats in Congress for our current oil situation.

The assertion that the Iraq War was "illegal" has been hashed over many times in the past five years. Bush did not receive permission from the United Nations to invade Iraq.

In September 2004, then-U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan stated that the war was "not in conformity with the U.N. Charter; from our point of view and from the Charter point of view, it was illegal."

A number of military personnel, most notably 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, have refused to serve in the war because they consider it "illegal" and have been court marshaled as a result.

In more recent news, previous presidential candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio,

is pushing an "Impeach Bush/Cheney" campaign. Reading his articles of impeachment, his argument is founded on the illegality of the war and the misleading of the American people.

Second, I was criticized and questioned for calling President George W. Bush a "known oil man." Bush attended Harvard Business School and received his master's of business administration there.

Bush founded Arbusto Energy, which was later sold to Spectrum 7 and then Harken Energy Co. Bush had executive roles in all three companies at one point or another. Before he entered politics, Bush also was involved with Carlyle Group.

I find it more than a coincidence that he was previously tied to oil companies and that he is now leading us in the war on terror in the Middle East, but I will leave the facts with you to make your own opinions.

Third, I asserted that many Americans do not recycle because they don't believe it will make an impact on our energy situation. I will admit that I said this out of frustration, but it was because

I hear people say it all the time. Maybe others are just lazy, or have their own reasons, but the point still remains that Americans don't recycle enough.

Finally, I believe some people were confused about the link between polar bears, or any other fuzzy creature, and oil prices. The link is that if we do drill in ANWR, as many people believe we should, history shows that we will do significant damage to the ecosystem in that area.

I have heard that people believe oil is more important than polar bears, caribou and penguins. I am not associated with PETA on any level, but this is a statement I have heard more than one person say.

I find that sad because I believe people should leave the world in a better condition than they left it, and I certainly believe that our children and grandchildren have the right to experience the world better than we have experienced it.

Among other things, that means they deserve to see polar bears.

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PHOTO BY BILL WENDL

Marching for Change

More than 100 people gathered in North Omaha on July 19 for the March for a Change, hosted by the Omahas for Justice Alliance. The walk down 24th Street, from Lothrop Magnet Center to Miller Park, was done to show solidarity for community members addressing issues such as inequality in housing, public education, economic development, police brutality and violence. The walk was followed by speeches, including one by state Sen. Erine Chambers, shown above on the right in a blue shirt.

SPECIAL ISSUES

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GUIDE TO UNO
AUGUST 12TH

DEADLINE
August 1st [noon]

WELCOME BACK
AUGUST 26TH

DEADLINE
August 15th [noon]

CENTENNIAL
OCTOBER 3RD

DEADLINE
August 3rd [noon]

From APPROVAL: Page 3

But the Democratic-controlled Congress and the Bush White House and its Republican allies appear deadlocked.

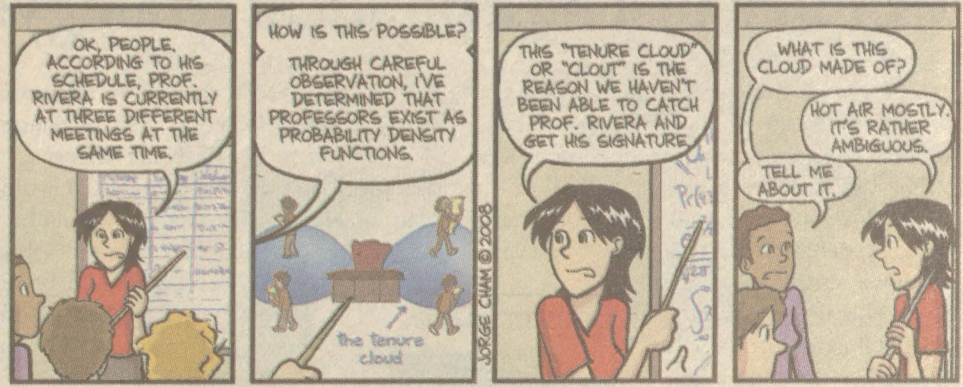
If there's any consensus, it's this: No one knows what solutions make the most sense, said Bruce Buchanan, a professor of government at the University of Texas.

"We're on untrodden ground. Nobody

has a good metric for predicting what will happen on energy or the economy," he said.

This much is clear, though: The public is tired of the constant sniping and the only rare attempts to fix things.

"The public is looking for solutions," said Doherty of the Pew Research Center. "They don't see this as an ideological issue."



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From STEWART: Page 7

senatorial bid, his "dreadful" relations with some black colleagues in the Illinois Senate and his screwing over of Alice Palmer when winning his state Senate seat.

What might be the most disturbing to the Obama camp is Lizza's conclusion that "perhaps the greatest misconception about Barack Obama is that he is some sort of anti-establishment revolutionary. Rather, every stage of his political career has been marked by an eagerness to accommodate himself to existing institutions rather than tear them down or replace them." Lizza goes on to write, "He runs as an outsider, but he has succeeded by mastering the inside game."

Perhaps that's what Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton thought was truly "tasteless and offensive" about the issue. Not the cover, which is clearly and without question a satirical political cartoon not only worthy of a New Yorker cover, but also typical of one. Not the satire of the right wing.

I think Obama's campaign was worried about people realizing that, essentially, Lizza's article nails the Obama candidacy. Lizza's article explains why progressives are starting to back away from Obama as a hero figure. It explains why Obama chose not to filibuster the telecom immunity legislation.

And it also explains why Obama's campaign fell back on the old political standard of smearing and promoting censorship rather than addressing the issues.

"It was a district where you had to campaign solely on those issues," Lizza quotes Emil Jones saying of Obama's 1996 state Senate campaign. "And Barack did not campaign that way, and so as a result he lost."

If that's truly the type of candidate Obama is, then it is lamentable that John McCain is his opponent. Otherwise, it might not be such a bad thing if Obama were to lose this campaign, too.

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Part time Leasing Agent needed!

Looking for a job that adds valuable experience to your resume? Join the Broadmoor team! Call Stephanie Alba at 551-2084 for more information. Or apply in person at Spring Tree Apartments, located at 3056 S. 60th Street. (We are flexible with class schedules.) www.broadmoor.cc

SERVICES

PIANO INSTRUCTION
Experienced, caring teacher with Master's Degree. Children & adults of all ages welcome. Donna Zebolsky 991-5774.

HOUSING

APTS., HOUSES and sleeping rms. for rent, roommate lists - call UNO off-campus Housing Referral Service at 554-2383 or stop in the Admin. Office, Milo Bail Student Center.

2008 N 70 Ave offers 3 different living area quarters and is priced to sell at just 140,000. To find out more call Lisa Ritter, DEEB Realty 612-2413.